Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-10 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 IO-13 L-03 NASA-01 NEA-11 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 DOE-15 CEQ-01 OES-07 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 TRSE-00 /144 W

-----028023 051724Z /45

O R 051709Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8294
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USDEL MBFR VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PEPR, GW, UR

SUBJECT: BREZHNEV VISIT TO FRG: MAY 5 PRESS CONFERENCE

- 1. THE FOLLOWING ARE THE KEY EXCERPTS FROM A JOINT PRESS BRIEFING BY FRG SPOKESMAN BOELLING AND SOVIET SPOKESMAN ZAMYATIN ON THE MAY 5 TETE-A-TETE BETWEEN SCHMIDT AND BREZHNEV.
- 2. BOELLING CHARACTERIZED THE MEETING IN VERY POSITIVE TERMS, SAYING IT HAD BEEN A PLUS FOR BOTH SIDES. HE SAID DISCUSSION HAD COVERED DISARMAMENT, I.E. SALT AND MBFR. AND BERLIN.
- 3. SALT: BOELLING SAID THE TWO LEADERS HAD HAD AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE STATUS OF SALT. BREZHNEV HAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOTED THE STRONG SOVIET INTEREST IN A POSITIVE CONCLUSION OF THE NEGOTIATION. SCHMIDT HAD REPLIED THAT THE FRG SHARED THIS INTEREST AND HOPED THAT THE SUPERPOWERS WOULD SUCCEED IN SOLVING THE REMAINING OPEN QUESTIONS IN A RELATIVELY SHORT TIME AND IN A MANNER ACCEPTABLE TO ALL PARTIES INTERESTED IN SALT.

- 4. MBFR: SCHMIDT OUTLINED FOR BREZHNEV HIS LONGTIME PERSONAL INTEREST IN MBFR AND REITERATED HIS HOPE THAT SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS COULD BE ACHIEVED IN VIENNA IN THE NEAR FUTURE. SCHMIDT NOTED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PRINCIPLE OF PARITY IN MBFR AND SAID THE FRG WAS PREPARED TO TAKE PART IN STEPS THAT COULD RESULT IN CONCRETE REDUCTIONS.
- 5. BERLIN: BOELLING SAID THE TWO LEADERS HAD CONTINUED THEIR MAY 4 DIALOGUE ON BERLIN. BREZHNEV HAD MADE CLEAR THAT HE WAS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE BERLIN QUESTION ON THE BASIS OF THE QA. SCHMIDT, IN REPLY, EXPRESSED PLEASURE OVER BREZHNEV'S ASSESSMENT AND ADDED THAT IT WAS NOW IMPORTANT TO PASS THIS OPTIMISM ALONG TO ALL THOSE CONCERNED WITH THIS MATTER.
- 6. ZAMYATIN ADDED THAT THE VISIT APPEARED TO BE VERY USEFUL, SUBSTANTIVE AND NECESSARY. HE DESCRIBED THE MEETING AS VERY POSITIVE AND OPEN, IN THE CHARACTER OF A DIALOGUE. BREZHNEV HAD STRESSED THAT DISARMAMENT COULD NO LONGER BE DELAYED. HE HAD EMPHASIZED THAT IN PRACTICE DISARMAMENT WAS MOVING AHEAD VERY SLOWLY AND HE (BREZHNEV) HAD TOLD SCHMIDT WHY HE THOUGHT THIS WAS THE CASE. BREZHNEV HAD STRESSED THAT DISARMAMENT MUST BE PURSUED CONTINUOUSLY AND EVER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STRONGER.

7. IN A Q AND A SESSION WHICH DEALT LARGELY WITH BERLIN AND ERW BOTH SPOKESMEN ARE SAID TO HAVE REPEATED THE WELL-KNOWN POSITIONS OF THEIR GOVERNMENTS. STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Concepts: VISITS, PRESS CONFERENCES

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 05 may 1978 Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BONN08393
Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Expiration: Format: TEL

Film Number: D780192-0685

From: BONN

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780590/aaaaczbo.tel

Line Count: 100 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7fe0cba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION EUR

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 31 may 2005 Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a

Review Media Identifier: Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2785678 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: BREZHNEV VISIT TO FRG: MAY 5 PRESS CONFERENCE

TAGS: PEPR, GE, UR, (BREZHNEV, LEONID I)

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7fe0cba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014